Second Member of Council.—1 or the Municipalities to ask for help is one thing. For them to ask for *abkari* revenue is another thing. It is a recognised principle of administration that the *abkari* revenue is a State revenue.

SUBJECT No. 47.

Fixing the selling price of toddy, &c.

Messrs. V. Shama Iyengar and N. Puttanna, T. Narsipur Taluk; H. Varadaiya, T. Narsipur Municipality and P. R. Lakshminaranappa, Mugur Municipality.

Mr. Shama Iyengar.—Persons obtaining excise contracts by highest bids began to sell toddy at a heavy rate. It has been found difficult by the public to meet such heavy cost. Government may fix rates at which the toddy should be sold before the excise sale is made. When price is high and people do not buy, factions are created in the place. The sale price of toddy should be fixed.

Second Member of Council.—Cannot be done. The minimum rate is now fixed. If any difficulty is experienced anywhere, the Excise Commissioner may be approached.

SUBJECT No. 48.

Abolishing the practice of obtaining certificates on application for license to tap trees.

Messrs. B. Kesavaiya and T. B. Malle Gowda, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Mr. B. Kesavaiya.—The practice of obtaining certificates from the Excise Inspector or Assistant Inspector on the *darkhast* for license to tap date trees entails unnecessary hardship to the applicants. This practice should be discontinued. It does not cause any inconvenience to Government.

Second Member of Council.—Cannot be done. The certificate is required to identify trees applied for by the licensee. Otherwise, it will be difficult for the Excise Staff to know the place where the trees applied for are situated. To detect cases of illicit tapping, it is essential that all details of trees which have been licensed for tapping should be known to the Excise Staff. The certificate provides for these contingencies.

REVENUE—(FOREST.)

(Nos. 49 to 59.)

SUBJECT No. 49.

Subordination of the District Forest Officer to the Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurti Rao, Magadi Taluk.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurti Rao.—The present arrangement of leaving District Forests to the Forest Department is not conducive to efficiency. The District Forest Officer may be made subordinate to the Deputy Commissioner.

Dewan.—A Committee has been appointed to investigate the question and submit definite proposals.

SUBJECT No. 50.

Grant of concessions in cases of accidental fires.

Messrs. Nadig Bhaskar Rao, Nadig Lakshmana Rao and Nadig Seetharamappa, Sorab Taluk.

Mr. Seetharamappa.—Amildars may be empowered to sanction timber up to a limit of Rs. 25 instead of Rs. 10 as at present in cases of accidental fire to houses of raiyats.

Dewan.—Increased powers have been given to the Amildar to give timber up to a limit of Rs. 25 in value.

Mr. Seetharamappa.—Concessions regarding building materials allowed at present to *khatedars* in cases of accidental fires may also be shown to *shikmi* raiyats whose houses are destroyed by fire and who require assistance from Government. The concessions are not shown to *shikmidars* because there is a *khatedar*. There must be a definite ruling. This has been shown in special cases.

Dewan.—Are such cases many ?

Mr. Subba Rao.—In the *malnad*, there are many such instances. The Amildar knows them.

Revenue Commissioner.—Do you want the concession for tenants or for *hissedars* ?

Mr. Subba Rao.—We want it to be shown to tenants.

Dewan.—Instructions will issue to grant the concessions to *shikmidars* also.

Mr. Seetharamappa.—Amildars may be empowered to sanction loans up to a limit of Rs. 100 at 3% interest to enable raiyats to construct houses in cases of accidental fires. Sufficient funds may be advanced to each Taluk for this purpose.

Chief Secretary to Government.—Are not *Takavi* loans granted in such cases ?

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao.—*Takavi* loan is only given for land improvement &c.

Chief Secretary to Government.—No, for rebuilding houses destroyed by fire.

Mr. Subba Rao.—We want the loan at a lower rate of interest, *viz.*, 3% while the rate for *takavi* loans is 5 %.

Chief Secretary to Government.—The rate of 5 % is reasonable considering the present state of the money market and the rate in rural parts of 25% or so.

SUBJECT No 51.

Management of District Forests.

Mr. Danavandi Krishna Rao, Kumsi Sub-Taluk.

Mr. Krishna Rao.—Interference of the Forest Department in District jungles may altogether be abolished and they may be left entirely under the management of the Revenue Department.

Dewan.—This question has been referred to the Committee appointed to investigate the question of entrusting the Deputy Commissioners with the entire administration of District Forests.